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of a local museum, and directed the Conservator to render such assistance as laid in his power.

At the meeting held December 10, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year :—

<i>Director,</i>	.	.	.	George H. Horn, M. D.
<i>Vice-Director,</i>	.	.	.	Rev. H. C. McCook, D. D.
<i>Recorder,</i>	.	.	.	James H. Ridings.
<i>Conservator,</i>	.	.	.	Eugene M. Aaron.
<i>Publication Committee,</i>	.	.	.	J. Frank Knight, H. Skinner.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES H. RIDINGS,

Recorder.

REPORT OF THE BOTANICAL SECTION.

The Vice-Director of the Botanical Section has pleasure in reporting to the Academy that the activity and prosperity of the Section heretofore noted, still continue. The growth of the Herbarium is fully detailed in the report of the Conservator submitted herewith. Meetings have been held regularly every month, except during the summer recess, and much interesting matter communicated and papers presented, some of the more important of which have appeared in the general Proceedings of the Academy. The Section is wholly free of debt, and has a surplus in its treasury, and has at present thirty-two members on the roll.

The officers elected to serve during 1884 are :—

<i>Director,</i>	.	.	.	Dr. W. S. W. Ruschenberger.
<i>Vice-Director,</i>	.	.	.	Thomas Meehan.
<i>Recording Secretary,</i>	.	.	.	F. Lamson Scribner.
<i>Cor. Secretary,</i>	}	.	.	Isaac C. Martindale.
<i>Treasurer,</i>	}	.	.	
<i>Conservator,</i>	.	.	.	John H. Redfield.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS MEEHAN,

Vice-Director.

Conservator's Report.—The Conservator reports that during the year 1883, now closing, the donations of plants to the Academy's Herbarium have been 2868 species. It is estimated that over 900

of these are new to the collection, adding 72 genera not before represented. The North American and Mexican species received were 1438; from the West Indies and South America were received 233; and from the Old World 1197. Referring to the appended list of donations for details, we may here call attention to the large and valuable additions contributed by Dr. Gray, of the Cambridge Herbarium, representing the floras of every quarter of the globe; a small collection from Australia, presented by Baron von Müller, through Mr. Meehan—nearly all of its species new to us; a collection of about 70 species of interesting Patagonian plants, made by Mr. William Bell, of the Transit of Venus expedition, and presented by him through Mr. Charles E. Smith; upwards of 400 species of plants from various regions, presented by Mr. Canby; and 51 species of Scandinavian Lichens, mostly new to the collection, presented by Dr. J. H. Eckfeldt.

These have all been poisoned, catalogued, placed in papers and distributed in their proper places in the Herbarium. This necessary work has left little time to devote to the improvement of the condition of the Herbarium generally, yet some progress has been made in that respect. Provisional lists of species have been continued as far as the order Borraginaceæ in the general Herbarium. The Endogens have been re-arranged to conform to the order adopted by Bentham and Hooker in the concluding part of their "Genera Plantarum," that vast monument of careful, patient, analytic work. And some small progress has been made in the much needed task of mounting the specimens of the North American Herbarium.

Heretofore the Academy's collection of plants has received the benefit of a large amount of faithful and intelligent labor from its late Curator-in-charge, Mr. Charles F. Parker, but his disability during the early part of the year, followed by his death on the 7th September, 1883, has deprived us of his services; and now the Conservator realizes, more than ever before, how much we have owed to Mr. Parker's diligent zeal and skilful hands. In his absence we have been indebted to the aid of Messrs. Burk, Meehan, Scribner and Brinton, who have each rendered efficient service. Mr. Scribner, though absent several months on explorations in Montana for the Northern Transcontinental Survey, has continued his critical work upon the grasses of our collection, and has made some progress in the work of mounting them.

It is very desirable that the Herbarium of the Academy should be in such condition as will make it most accessible and useful to botanists who may visit it during the meeting in this city next year of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the British Association; and though it will be impossible to do all that should be done in the brief intervening period, it is hoped that much may be accomplished towards this end, and that good progress may be made in the mounting of at least the North American plants.

JOHN H. REDFIELD,

December 10, 1883.

Conservator.

REPORT OF THE MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SECTION.

Meetings of the Section have been held regularly during the year, the attendance averaging from eight to ten. The discussions have been more upon geological questions than upon mineralogical, owing to the interest excited by the Geological Survey of the State. The most important event to the Academy in connection with mineralogy has been the accession of the Vaux collection, and its arrangement by Mr. Jacob Binder, whose services in that matter have been of exceeding value.

The officers of the Section are:—

<i>Director,</i>	.	.	.	.	Theodore D. Rand.
<i>Vice-Director,</i>	.	.	.	.	W. W. Jefferis, Esq.
<i>Recorder and Secretary,</i>	.	.	.	.	Dr. A. E. Foote.
<i>Conservator,</i>	.	.	.	.	Prof. H. Carvill Lewis.
<i>Treasurer,</i>	.	.	.	.	John Ford.

Respectfully submitted,

THEODORE D. RAND,

Director.